

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, an effort has been made to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner, and the claims have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art. For more convenient reference, a clean substitute copy of the specification is enclosed herewith which includes all of the amendments to date. No new or additional matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is requested in the light of the foregoing amendments. While applicants' invention preferably relates to varnishing machines, the specification and claims make clear that it also can be used in printing machines which have planographic printing cylinders, including blanket cylinders. (*See* original specification pages 5-6). The claims as presented are intended to be generic to both, and the term printing "nip" as used in claim 19 is intended to encompass both a varnishing or printing ink nip.

With respect to the prior, claims 19, 20, 27 and 28 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Goodwin (U.S. 4,327,641) in view of DeMoore (U.S. 5,979,322); claims 22, 25, 29 and 30 have been rejected over the same references further in view of Makino (U.S. 5,053,311); claim 26 has been rejected over the same references further in view of Vines (U.S. 3,762, 322); claim 31 has been rejected over Goodwin in view of DeMoore, Makino and Adams (U.S. 6,289,812); claim 32 has been rejected over Goodwin in view of DeMoore and Bressler (U.S. 6,136,375); claims 33 and 34 have been rejected over Goodwin in view of DeMoore and Schafer (U.S. 6,676,053) and claims 35-37 have been rejected over Goodwin in view of DeMoore and Lee (U.S. 3,718,115) reconsideration of such rejections is respectfully requested.

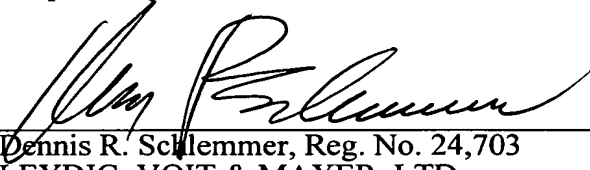
Applicants have disclosed and claimed herein a printing machine having a plurality of printing units, which in the preferred embodiment include one or more varnishing units. Each of the printing units include a first cylinder (*i.e.*, a plate cylinder, blanket cylinder or the like) and an associated sheet carrying cylinder which define a printing nip for application of a coating medium, either printing ink or varnish, to printing matter directed through the nip at the operating speed of the machine. Pursuant to the invention, the first cylinder of at least one of the printing units is moveable to a print-off position so as not to be operatively involved in the printing process and that cylinder has a liquid repellant surface facing printing matter directed through the nip, such that the inoperative cylinder and associated sheet carrying cylinder are

effective for guiding sheet movement through the printing units at press speed without marring or damaging the previously printed sides thereof.

In contrast, while Goodwin (4,327,601) discloses a printing unit that can be non-operative, it lacks any disclosure or appreciation of applicants' invention. Indeed, it teaches to the contrary, by providing for cleaning of the printing plates which can be undesirable if cleaning fluid is transferred to sheets in the nip. Nor does Goodwin indicate the speed at which the machine is operated during such non-operating mode. DeMoore (5,979,322) relates to flexible jacket coverings on "transfer cylinders" of printing machines. There is no disclosure that such covering could be used on blanket or printing cylinders which define a printing nip, or that such printing or varnishing unit could be operated at press speed without harming printable material directed through the printing or varnishing nip. Neither Goodwin, DeMoore, or any of the other prior art of record, teach or suggest a printing machine as claimed, or appreciate the advantages of the use of such printing unit in a non-printing operating mode.

Hence, it is believed that the claims as now presented all are directed to features which are neither disclosed or suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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